

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

HIGHWAY ROUTE MATTERS
New Public Road Connection
Resolution S-706
10-Ama-49 KP 10.3 (PM 6.4)
CTC Meeting: May 10-11, 2000

Prepared by:
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Agenda Item: 2.3b(2)

Original Signed By

W.J. EVANS, Deputy Director
Finance
May 1, 2000

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission adopt Resolution S-706 to grant approval of a new at-grade public road connection to the west side of the Route 49 Controlled Access Highway Amador County, at Kilo Post 10.3 (Post Mile 6.4).

Recommended by: *Original Signed By Karla Sutliff for*
BRENT FELKER, Deputy Director, Project Development

Issue

The County of Amador has requested approval of a new public road connection to the west side of State Route 49 at Kilo Post 10.3 creating a four-legged intersection at this location. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto.

Background

The request for a new public road connection, Industry Drive, is driven by a redevelopment project that is bounded by three state highways. The project is a triangular-shaped collection of parcels bounded by Highway 104 on the northwest, by Highway 88 on the southwest and by Highway 49 on the east as shown on the attached map. In the project area Highways 88 and 104 are non-access controlled facilities. Highway 49, however, was adopted and declared a freeway and there is a freeway agreement that covers the project area.

The Georgia Pacific Lumber Mill originally occupied the project area. This area is now zoned for commercial and industrial developments as the Martell Area Business Park, which consists of two sub-areas, the Martell Business Park and the Sierra West Business Park. The Martell Business Park will occupy the western two-thirds of the project area. The eastern portion will consist of 145.8 acres of commercial and light manufacturing with access provided by the proposed new connection. The western portion will consist of 95.7 acres of heavy commercial and industrial development with access to Highways 88 and 104 via Business Drive and Timber Street. The remaining project area is the Sierra West Business Park. In the park 47.8 acres of industrial and manufacturing developments will access Highway 104 via Ampine Avenue and Forest Products Road. There will be an 11.5 acre car dealership and a 10.7 acre commercial development on either side of the new public road connection at Highway 49.

The Amador County Board of Supervisors approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on May 25, 1999 for the Sierra West Business Park. The County then hires Dokken Engineering to prepare the Project Study Report (PSR) and Project Report (PR) to analyze the impacts of the new connection. The PSR, dated March 28, 2000, estimated construction costs to be \$442,000 and identified design issues to be resolved. The Project Report will be approved in May 2000. It estimated the construction costs to be \$336,000 and resolved the design issue. The County passed a Resolution of Change to supercede a portion of the freeway agreement for the purposes of the new public road connection and to state their intention to supercede the agreement in its entirety during the development of the Highway 49 Amador Bypass project.

Discussion

The California Highway Commission on August 20, 1969 declared route 49 a controlled access highway. The existing facility consists of four lanes with a continuous two-way left turn lane and shoulders of standard width. It has an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of 15,700 vehicles. It is the only north-south arterial in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Route 88 is a two-lane conventional highway that runs west from San Joaquin County to Alpine County on the west. Its AADT is 10,860 within the project area. Route 104 begins in San Joaquin County and ends at Highway 49 near in Amador County. It is a two-lane conventional highway with an AADT of 5,500 within the project area.

The Amador County Planning Commission approved the redevelopment of the project area on April 13, 1999 and required as mitigation for project impacts the conversion of a gated driveway into a public road. The gated driveway onto a controlled access highway was authorized under an encroachment permit for the lumber mill. Other access points for the business parks are Forest Products Road, Ampine Road, and Timber Street from Highway 104, Business Drive from Highway 88 and Sierra Pacific Drive from Highway 49. The project is expected to decrease the LOS at the new public road connection intersection on Highway 49 from A to F. At the intersection of Highways 49 and 104 the project will decrease the LOS from C to D. At the intersection of Highways 49 and 88 the project will decrease the LOS from B to C.

To mitigate the project impacts a new public road, Industry Boulevard, is required. It will be located as the fourth leg of an intersection with Trade Center Drive and Highway 49. The intersection will be widened to

accommodate a left turn lane and a right-turn only lane and it will have a signal. With improvements to the intersections the project is expected to improve the LOS at the new public road connection intersection on Highway 49 to C. At the intersection of Highways 49 and 104 the LOS will improve to C and at the intersection of Highways 49 and 88 the LOS will remain the same. The spacing between the new public road intersection and the Sierra Pacific Drive intersection is less than the standard required in the Highway Design Manual for a controlled access highway. The Department has approved a Fact Sheet allowing an exception to this advisory standard. A contributing factor is that the current proposals for the bypass do not conform to the current alignment of Highway 49.